

CLAIMS

1. A method of constructing a thin film mirror, which method comprises:
- (i) providing a suction chamber with edges which lie on a required mirror surface;
 - (ii) providing tensioning means which is forced into contact with *the film* adjacent to at least one of the edges of the suction chamber such that tension in the film parallel to the edge is increased; and
 - (iii) providing holding means for
 - (a) holding the tensioning means;
 - (b) locally adjusting holding pressure on the tensioning means; and
 - (c) feeding the tensioning means into position after the film has been attached to the suction chamber.
2. A method according to claim 1 in which the tensioning means is a rod.
3. A method according to claim 2 in which the rod is of circular cross section.

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4. A method according to claim 3 in which the rod is a tube.
5. A method according to claim 4 in which the tube is a semi-rigid tube.
6. A method according to claim 1 in which the holding means has a first portion for extending over the tensioning means, and a second portion for extending under the suction chamber.
7. A thin film mirror when produced by a method according to claim 1.

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